

Check It Out Tracts

PAUL'S GOSPEL

CHECK IT OUT

by John W. White

The purpose of this tract is to show that Paul's gospel or the expressions "my gospel" or "our gospel" is not a reference to the salvation of **Acts 16:30-31**. Before Jesus was crucified, Gentiles were denied the message of the kingdom of the heavens and only saved Israel could qualify to have an heavenly inheritance. Gentiles have always been able to be saved; but they had no hope of having an **entrance into** the kingdom of the heavens. As a saved Gentile he would have the privilege of seeing the kingdom of the heavens. **John 3:3** "Except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."

ISRAELITES

The following passages of scripture will provide insight into God's love for the nation of Israel and their special place in His purposes for them. **Deuteronomy 7:6** "For thou *art* an **holy people** unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a **special people** unto himself, **above all people** that *are* upon the face of the earth." **Romans 9:4-5** "Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the **adoption**, and the **glory**, and the **covenants**, and the giving of the **law**, and the **service of God**, and the **promises**; 5. Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*..." **Ezekiel 37:12-14** "Therefore prophesy ...Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you **into the land** of Israel. 13. And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, ... and brought you up out of your graves, 14. ... **I shall place you in your own land**: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*..." The hope of Israel was the land. Jesus Christ came preaching the kingdom of heavens, a heavenly inheritance, and **not the land**, an early inheritance. At the beginning of His ministry Jesus was calling only many of the nation of Israel unto this inheritance. **Matthew 22:14** "For **many** are **called**, but **few** are **chosen**." Jesus and the Apostles were preaching to those of Israel that had ears to hear. **Matthew 13:9** "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." The mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens had not been revealed to the nation of Israel until Jesus began his ministry. There were a few in the Old Testament referred to in Hebrews 11 that "...looked for a city ...whose builder and maker *is* God." **Hebrews 11:10** Those who lived by faith desired "...a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." **Hebrews 11:16**

GENTILES

The revelation made to Paul was not that Gentiles could now be saved since Jesus Christ had died on the cross. Gentiles have always been able to be saved. The prime example of this is found in **Jonah 3:5** "So the people of Nineveh **believed God**, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them." **Isaiah 56:6-7** "Also the sons of the stranger, that **join themselves** to the LORD, to **serve** him, and to **love the name** of the LORD, to **be his servants**, every one that **keepeth the sabbath** from polluting it, and **taketh hold** of my covenant; 7. Even **them** will I **bring** to my holy mountain, and **make them joyful** in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and **their sacrifices** *shall be* accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for **all people**."

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GENTILE INHERITANCE

Saved Gentiles were given an inheritance in the land of Israel. **Ezekiel 47:22-23** “And it shall come to pass, *that* ye shall divide it by lot for an **inheritance** unto you, and to the **strangers** that sojourn **among** you, which shall beget children **among you**: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; **they shall have inheritance** with you **among** the tribes of Israel. 23. And it shall come to pass, *that in* what tribe the stranger sojourneth, **there shall ye give him his inheritance**, saith the Lord GOD.” Gentiles were to be given an inheritance **among** the tribe in which they dwelt. An example of this is found in the inheritance of Caleb, a Gentile. Caleb’s name means ‘dog’ in Hebrew. **Joshua 21:12** “But **the fields** of the city, ... gave they to Caleb ... for his possession.”

Before Christ was crucified, saved Gentiles were not allowed to have an **entrance** into the kingdom of the heavens. Peter and the apostles were taught and learned well in **Matthew 10:5-7** “These twelve Jesus... commanded ... saying, **Go not** into the way of the **Gentiles**, and into *any* city of the **Samaritans enter ye not**: 6. But **go rather** to the lost sheep of the house of **Israel**. 7. ...preach ...The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Jesus refused, for a time, the pleas of the woman of Canaan in **Matthew 15:24,26,28** “But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel [saved Israel]. 26. ..., It is not meet to take the **children’s** bread, and cast *it* to **dogs** [saved Gentiles like Caleb]. 28...O woman, great is thy faith...”

GENTILES HAD NO HOPE

Ephesians 2:12 “That at that time ye [Gentiles] were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the **common-wealth** of Israel, and **strangers** from the covenants of **promise**, having **no hope**, and **without God** in the world.” Gentiles had no hope of a **Messiah** as did the nation of Israel. Gentiles had no promise of having an inheritance in any of the cities of the land of Israel. God did not make any covenants with Gentiles as he did with the nation of Israel. The LORD was not the God of the Gentiles but the God of Shem. **Genesis 9:26** “Blessed be the LORD God of Shem...” The Word of God has been revealed only through Israel. **Psalms 147:19-20** “He showeth his **word** unto **Jacob**, his **statutes** and his **judgments** unto **Israel**. 20. He hath **not** dealt so with **any nation**” Yet, as it has already been noted, Gentiles could “**join themselves** to the LORD” in **Isaiah 56:6**.

PAUL’S GOSPEL

Romans 16:25-26 “Now to him [Wise God v. 27] that is of power to **stablish** [establish, fix] you according to **my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery**, which was **kept secret** since the world began, 26. But **now** [at the present time] is made **manifest** [to bring to light, make known], and by the scriptures of the **prophets**, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all **nations** [Gentiles] for the **obedience of faith**.” Paul’s gospel was a mystery kept secret by God since the ages began. The common salvation was not kept secret. Adam and Eve knew how to be saved from the time they left the garden. **John 1:9** “...the true Light, which **lighteth every man** that cometh into the world.” **Romans 1:19-20** “Because **that which may be known** of God **is manifest in them**; for **God hath showed it** unto them. 20. ...so that they are without excuse.” The Old Testament prophets wrote of the blessings that would come to the Gentiles but what that blessing was in full was not revealed unto them. **Isaiah 56:7** “Even **them** [Gentiles] **will I bring to my holy mountain**, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

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shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people [Jew and Gentile].” This is beyond salvation. The way of salvation for Gentiles is found in verse 6. Paul gospel was made known to Gentiles for the obedience of faith. The words “Obedience” and “Faith” are fraught with meaning. **Hebrews 11:6** “But without **faith** *it is* impossible to please *him...*” **Galatians 5:6** “...**faith** which worketh by **love**.” Obedience is the result of love as in **John 14:15** “**If ye love me**, keep my commandments.” Those who are obedient are just, and only the “**The just shall live by faith.**” **Romans 1:17** If you are disobedient you are living in sin and there is no way you can please God by trying to live by faith. (See tract on Faith or Believe Check It Out).

NOW REVEALED

Galatians 1:11-12 “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” At the time Paul received this revelation none of the apostles could tell him that Gentiles would be about to enter the kingdom of the heavens, because they believed they could not. That is what the Lord had taught them. Paul tells us in **Ephesians 3:3, 5-6** “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; ... 5. Which in other ages was **not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed** unto his holy **apostles** and **prophets** by the Spirit; 6. That the **Gentiles** should be **fellowheirs**, and of the **same body**, and **partakers** of his **promise** in **Christ** by the **gospel:**” **Ephesians 2:16-19** “And that he might **reconcile both** [Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the **enmity** thereby: 17. And came and preached **peace** to you [Gentiles] which were **afar off** [made nigh by the blood, v.13; this is not the salvation of Gentiles], and to them [Jews] that were nigh. 18. For through him we **both** have access by one Spirit unto the **Father**. 19. Now therefore ye [Gentiles] are **no more strangers** and **foreigners**, but **fellowcitizens** with the saints, and **of the household of God;**”

DELAYED ABOUT SIX YEARS

From the time that Paul was confronted by Jesus Christ in Acts 9 until Paul went up to Jerusalem to see Peter for the first time was about three years. **Galatians 1:17-18** “**Neither went I up to Jerusalem** to them which were apostles before me; but **I went into Arabia**, and returned again unto Damascus. 18. Then **after three years** I went up to Jerusalem to **see Peter...**” This fifteen day meeting in Jerusalem did not convince Peter that Gentiles would now be able to hear and receive what was once denied them in **Matthew 10:5** “Go not into the way of the Gentiles.” It was about three years later that Peter was persuaded by the Lord in **Acts 10:15** “...What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common.” After this vision Peter went to a Gentiles home and “said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:” **Acts 10:34** Before this time Peter knew that God was a respecter of persons, Gentiles were excluded. Yet **Acts 10:44-45** “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished...” When Cornelius and his house spake in tongues, it was a sign unto those who did not believe that this message was to be preached unto the Gentiles. Peter and those who were with him could no longer deny the message that was only for Israel was now open to Gentiles.

LET HIM BE ACCURSED

Galatians 1:9 “As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Was Peter and the other apostles

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accursed because they were preaching something other than what Paul was preaching? No! Paul and Peter preached the same gospel of the kingdom of the heavens, but to different audiences. **Galatians 2:7-8** "...The **gospel of the uncircumcision** was committed unto **me**, as *the **gospel of the circumcision*** was unto **Peter**; 8. (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the **apostleship of the circumcision**, the same **was mighty in me toward the Gentiles**:)"

CALLED BY OUR GOSPEL

2 Thessalonians 2:14 "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining [gaining] of the **glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ." **Before** one can be **called** he **must** be **saved**. **2 Timothy 1:9** "Who hath **saved** us, and **called** us with an holy calling..." The holy calling is "...unto his **kingdom and glory**." in **1 Thessalonians 2:12**. Who are the ones that have been called by "our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory?" We find the answer to this question in **2 Thessalonians 2:13** "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, **brethren beloved** of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen** you **to salvation**..." They are the ones that were chosen "To salvation ... Whereunto" they were called by Paul's gospel. The words "**brethren beloved**" is used to **address** those who are **called**. Both words are in the vocative case which is the case of address. "O Brethren, O ones having been loved." (The word "beloved" is a perfect passive participle.) This phrase is only found here and in **1 Thessalonians 1:4** "Knowing, **brethren beloved**, your election of God." "Brethren beloved" are the elect in Christ that have been chosen "to salvation" that is in Christ. This salvation is referred to by Paul in **2 Timothy 2:10** "... I endure all ... for the **elect's** sakes, that they **may** also **obtain** the **salvation** which is **in Christ** Jesus with **eternal glory**." This is not the "common salvation" that is offered to those who are **not in Christ**. The salvation offered unto the **elect in Christ** is the "...so great salvation; which **at the first** began to be spoken by the Lord,..." **Hebrews 2:3** The "So great salvation" is associated with the mysteries of the Kingdom of the heavens which was offered to the nation of Israel at the beginning. This salvation offered to the elect **may** or **may not be gained**; it depends if the elect "...give diligence to make your **calling** and **election sure**... 11. For so an **entrance** shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting **kingdom** of our Lord." **2 Peter 1:10-11**

JUDGED ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL

Romans 2:16 "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men **by Jesus Christ** according to **my gospel**." This is the judgment seat of Christ and not the great white throne judgment. (The saved are judged in the context of verse 16) **Romans 2:6-7** "Who will render to **every man** according to his **deeds**: 7. To them who by patient **continuance in well doing** seek for **glory** and **honour** and **immortality** [incorruption], eternal life:" **Romans 2:10-11** "But **glory, honour, and peace**, to every man that **worketh good**, ... For **there is no respect of persons** with God." **Colossians 3:24-25** "...of the Lord ye shall receive the **reward** of the **inheritance**: for ye serve... 25. But he that **doeth wrong shall receive** for the **wrong** which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons**." **2 Corinthians 5:9-10** "Wherefore **we labour, that**, ... we **may be accepted** [well pleasing] of him. 10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad."

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